

Truckers Convoy and Protective Services

Key Messages – January 30, 2022 12:20PM

- Generally, the first day of demonstrations went well. Although there were some incidents, there were no arrests.
- I do have to say that I am disappointed in the lack of respect shown at the War Memorial, and the defacement of the Terry Fox statue. In the Ottawa Police news release issued this morning, there is a reminder that national monuments should be protected and respected. Barricades have been installed to block access to the War Memorial.
- It is also unfortunate the rudeness experienced by employees at the Rideau Centre – which was ultimately closed down and cleared out by Ottawa Police due to non-compliance with public health measures.
- At its peak yesterday, we estimate there were close to 8,000 people on Parliament Hill. That number started to drop significantly as the sun went down and temperatures got colder. For example, numbers dropped from about 7,000 people at 4:00 PM, to 3,000 at 5:00 PM.
- Gridlock was a problem throughout the day – and remains a problem today. The Ottawa Police news release calls on residents not to travel downtown, noting large crowds – as well as a large police presence.
- I'll go through current statistics in a moment.
- I mentioned yesterday that there were solidarity protests taking place across Canada. Similar to Ottawa, there were no arrests and the major complaint was traffic volume and slowdowns. Some examples of these include:
 - **Woodstock POE:** Vehicles were blocking one of the southbound lanes to the US, with one lane remaining open to commercial motor vehicles. No

personal motor vehicles were being permitted through the protest location.

- **Windsor:** A group of 100 vehicles reported protesting on Huron Church Rd. near Ambassador Bridge POE. There was no impact on border traffic and no reported activity on the US side of the border.
 - **Coutts POE:** Traffic to and from the Canadian side of the border crossing at Coutts, Alberta was completely blocked, with a jack-knifed semi truck (reinforced with other vehicles) blocking the northbound lane of Highway 4.
 - **Emerson and Headingley, Manitoba:** A Support Freedom Convoy demonstration with around 100-200 vehicles staged in Headingley and was destined for the Manitoba Legislative Building located in downtown Winnipeg. In addition, trucks and demonstration support vehicles lined up at the Emerson border engaged in a continuous slow moving convoy disrupting traffic flow on Highway #75.
 - **British Columbia** saw protests in Terrace, Osoyoos, Vernon, Fort St. John, Lumby, Vernon, and the Lower Mainland. These involved marches and slow-roll convoys.
 - **New Brunswick** managed four events: a Nova Scotia/New Brunswick border protest, a New Brunswick/Maine Port of Entry Protest, a private vehicle convoy from, and a severe winter storm. Blockades occurred but did not last longer than 1.5 hours due to severe weather deterioration.
- Additional solidarity protests are expected to take place today.
 - Some of the newest information we have through Open Source reporting includes:

- As you know, the Centennial Flame was extinguished as a safety measure. However, around 9:00 PM yesterday, demonstrators filled the Centennial Flame with gasoline to light it.
 - Around midnight, a post was shared to the Canada Unity page which reads “So we want to prove to Justin Trudeau that we’re not a FRINGE minority. We’re preparing the ‘2nd Wave Convoy’ getting ready to head to Ottawa.”
 - Early this morning, a post on Snapchat was identified of an individual wearing a flame thrower stationed on top of a recreational vehicle. The individual was on Wellington St. The Snapchat was posted approximately 7 hours ago and the individual was not identified.
 - There are calls from a group called Trucking for Freedom to upload footage to their website in order to create a documentary about the Convoy Freedom movement which began in Canada in January 2022. The group claims that they will be ‘releasing an official documentary on this historic Canadian event’ and are soliciting the help of videographers, photographers, drone pilots, or ‘passionate Canadians’ for their footage.
 - The leader of Canada Unity, Personal Info., has expressed that no one is leaving and that more convoys will be coming from the US and West. He and his executive board are allegedly together at the Ark Hotel at 140 Slater, which is their command center, and are looking for a ‘risk mitigation meeting’ with NCR police services. This information has been shared with Ottawa Police Service.
- This information of course leads us back to the big question from yesterday – how long will these demonstrations last? While we still don’t have a firm answer to that, it is expected that this could last for several days.
 - OPP, OPS, and PPS have Liaison Teams who continue to communicate with the event organizers. Organizers remain non committal, indicating that they will remain here until such time that the Vaccine Mandate has been removed.

- We expect that key milestones over the next 8 hours will form the predicate for the upcoming week.
- This is a large protest, where several groups are claiming to be the lead. The situation continues to be quite dynamic, with multiple groups at various levels of militancy, protesting various grievances surrounding CoVid measures and the perception of government imposition on civil liberties.
- OPS has indicated that, as long as public safety is not at risk, they have no plans to force convoy participants to egress from the downtown core. OPS and RCMP DCOT are integrated in the protest and are observing crowd dynamics and are looking for flashpoints.
- OPS do not want to create a flash point by forcibly removing any convoy vehicles.
- Chief Sloly has said that any decision to bring the protest to a close early would be based on public safety concerns or a breakdown in communications with protest organizers.
- The Combined Intelligence Group (CIG) is working diligently to gather relevant intelligence that assists in guiding operations and are providing crowd size estimates and estimated timelines.
- To attempt to offer a bit more on yesterday's question of 'How does this all end?'- I can tell you that the OPS, OPP and PPS Liaison Teams will continue to liaise and negotiate with the organizers and protestors to ensure a peaceful and non violent event. Priority is on de-escalation efforts.
- OPS and POJ's will respond to all known criminal acts within their respective jurisdictions, PPS remains the lead for the protective posture within the Parliamentary Precinct and on the grounds of Parliament Hill and the RCMP will continue to fulfill its protective mandate.

- Should the crowd dynamics turn to violent actions, Public Order Units will be deployed as/when required based on pre-determined operational plans and under a strict command structure. Several Public Order Units are standing by in the NCR, this includes: OPS, OPP (2). Toronto Police Service (includes a Mounted Unit of 8), London Police, Durham Police, York Regional, and the RCMP (3).
- Regarding the resumption of Parliament, in anticipation of protests continuing, our Ministerial Liaison Team is working with PPS to determine which Ministers plan to attend Parliament tomorrow, along with arrival and departure times. This will assist in scoping out sequencing and routes. s.37
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- So far we have been advised that 175 MPs and 20 Ministers plan to attend. Calls were held yesterday afternoon and this morning between the RCMP, PPS, PCO, and PSPC to discuss ingress and egress into the downtown core, the s.37
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- MP's will be asked to limit foot travel on/off the Hill, while the protest is ongoing.
- As long as protestors remain peaceful, they will be able to exercise their democratic rights to protest. Should this extend into several days, whereby undue disturbances are caused to the public and downtown core, judicial

authorizations to forcibly remove trucks and protestors may be considered. The City of Ottawa, OPS, and Ottawa Legal Services are currently exploring all legal options, which includes injunctions.

- Using force to remove the truckers and protestors will be considered as the last resort. The preferred strategy is to wait it out, with truckers and protestors egressing willingly.

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- There have also been no changes to the security postures for the Ministers that I discussed with you yesterday. There were extra patrols and heightened vigilance throughout the evening around sites and residences in the NCR, with no issues to report.

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Personal Info.

- We did receive a call from Minister O'Regan yesterday. He advised that a group of protesters have rented a condo in his building – an AirB&B - and expressed concern as he was scheduled to leave on a flight later in the day. We deployed a driver to pick him up at his condo and to transport him to the airport.
- Late yesterday afternoon, we also received call from **Personal Info.** at the SAA office in House of Commons advising that the Honourable Erin O'Toole called expressing concern with traffic in the neighborhood. We attended his residence and spoke with Mrs. O'Toole, as Mr. O'Toole was on the phone. We reviewed steps to take if assistance is required, and noted that we are continuing concentrated patrols in that area. I understand that the family was reassured by this visit.

- I also understand that Mr. O'Toole intends to attend Parliament Hill both today and on Monday.
- I will, of course, keep you informed of developments.

Current Statistics - Latest Data (estimates)
• Convoys totalling approximately 2950 vehicles have arrived in the NCR. • Unknown number of vehicles in the downtown core. • Approximately 100-200 protestors on Parliament Hill; and 200-250 on Wellington St. Foot traffic is picking up. • Mood remains positive. • OPS advised of a new convoy travelling to the NCR from Arnprior, ON. Convoy contains approximately 50-70 vehicles. • Reports of a possible convoy leaving the Kingston, ON area were received. No confirmed numbers or location at this time. • Rideau centre remains closed today due to issues yesterday surrounding protestors entering the mall in absence of complying with CoVid measures. • Some trucks are trying to leave the downtown core and police are working with the organizers.